



**Site Visit Programmatic Questions  
Positive Alternatives 2016  
Birthright of Rochester – May 26, 2016**

**1. Update/ Demographic Reporting**

- Review your two most recently submitted Update/Demographic Reports: are you meeting Report Count Goals?  
**Report Counts have been steady or above suggested work plan numbers.**
- Note any significant differences between the reports: are your programs stable? Improving? What do the reports indicate about progress in your programs?  
**This winter available hours suffered at the Center because of a lack of availability of volunteers. This grantee is in the process of training 8 new volunteers that should remedy this situation.**
- Any questions on the recording of data on either form?  
**Not at this time.**

**2. Work Plan**

- Review your 2012-16 grant application's description of the program you requested to be funded. Note the services and activities you said you would provide and the number of clients you would serve.
- Please prepare a **short summary of your current program(s) and the number of clients being served.** Address these topics:
  - a. How does what you describe in the application compare with what you are currently providing?
  - b. Have any programs and/or activities or services been added or removed?
  - c. Have the number of clients being served per quarter decreased or increased in the 4th year?
  - d. Is there anything in particular you want to share about your current program to explain its current status?

**5/09/2016 Positive Alternatives Grant Site Visit Program Summary**

**Emergency Pregnancy Service of Rochester**

Emergency Pregnancy Service of Rochester (dba Birthright of Rochester) supports women and their children (unborn through 12 months of age and older) by providing free pregnancy tests, diapers, wipes, and baby wash purchased through grant funds. Our office also accepts, stores, and distributes gently used infant and maternity clothes. Through community donations, we distribute newborn layette items. We use the internet and computer to provide referrals to other community agencies. We advertise in

the two local phone books. We print and distribute a biannual informational newsletter to our clients, supporters, and the community. Over the previous 2 quarters (Oct-Dec 2015, Jan-March 2016), we averaged 116 PA clients per quarter. Our goal was 100 PA clients per quarter, so we continue to exceed our goal. These clients included women who are pregnant or have a child under 12 months of age when they entered our grant-funded program. We saw on average 11 new clients and 105 returning clients each quarter. All clients are assessed to assure that they are connected to Necessary Services. We administered an average of 3 pregnancy tests with advising per quarter. Our goal was 3 per quarter.

In our application we requested the grant monies to cover the cost of rent, utilities, diapers, wipes, baby wash/shampoo, office supplies, advertising, and internet and phone.

Grant funds are used to continually provide a welcoming office space for our clients. We distribute approximately 188 packages of diapers, 108 packages of wipes, and 103 bottles of baby wash/shampoo per quarter. We use our computer supplies, phone, and internet to connect clients with other community resources to assist them in securing necessary services. We advertise in the Hibu and Dex phone books to inform potential clients in need of our services. We distribute pamphlets to other community service organizations to facilitate referrals of clients in need.

No programs have been added or taken away from the original grant proposal.

The number of PA clients we currently serve has increased since 2012. According to the Quarterly Update for October-December 2012, we served 137 clients. During Year Two of the grant (July 2013-June 2014), we averaged 131 clients per quarter. During Year Three (July 2014-June 2015), we averaged 149 clients per quarter. So far during Year Four (July 2015 – March 2016) we averaged 125 clients per quarter. Although this number is a bit lower, we are still meeting our goal of 100 per quarter. We are currently working to increase the number of Walk-In office hours in order to serve more clients.

Birthright of Rochester continues to see a great need and demand for the services we provide. There is no other agency in Rochester where parents can get diapers and clothing on an emergency monthly basis. Our biggest challenge in the last year has been a decrease in the number of fully trained Client Advisors volunteering in our office. However, in April eight new volunteers began the training process and therefore hope to resolve this problem in the coming months.

### **3. Fiscal Review**

- Review of the 2015-16 expenditures spreadsheet sent by Ellen Heit.  
**No questions on accounting for PA funding.**
- Have you revised your 2015-16 budget justification?  
**A budget revision was sent in to move unused travel and evaluation funding to supplies. The revision was approved recently.**
- Any questions on your completion of the 2014-16 grant and your budget?  
**This grantee hopes to spend down all funding for this grant cycle. No other questions.**

**4.** Do you have any questions on the findings from your **Financial Reconciliation?**

The FR took place last year and there are no questions concerning their findings.

**5. Grant Closeout Form**

- You will have an opportunity to review a draft of the Grant Closeout Form.

**6. 2015-16 Evaluation - Due June 10th**

- Your 2015-16 Evaluation Plan will be discussed. Any suggestions provided in your 2013-14 Report Summary should be included in the plan, if you are continuing the same evaluation.

The evaluation project for 2015-16 was to look at client follow-up to Birthright's referrals for them. They are hoping to show that 75% of clients attended their appointments when made as a referral from their Center. They are completing their evaluation project and summary. They will be submitting it by the deadline of June 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Any questions on the expectations of the report or your organization's evaluation plan for 2015-16?

None at this time.

**7. Positive Alternatives website**

- The PA website will be reconfigured once contracts are all signed.
- Resources for grantees will remain basically the same.
- WRTK booklet revisions have not yet been completed.

Both the website update and the WRTK booklet are still in progress.

**8. Grant Manager Updates**

Yearly budgets in the new 2016-19 grant cycle vs current 2 year budgets were discussed as we move ahead to the new grant cycle. A director and staff grant administration webinar will be offered on Thursday morning, July 14. All grantees are welcome to attend. More information will be sent to all grantees soon. PA policies are in the process of being updated and revised. Expect the revised policies to be sent out at the beginning of the new 2016-19 grant cycle.

**9. Issues specific to this grantee**

Left over gift cards from the 2015-16 evaluation project were discussed. It was suggested that the Center continue to give them as incentive gifts for returning proof of keeping a referral appointment. Otherwise it was suggested that the grantee could use them for emergency assistance for clients in need or to purchase needed material assistance items for the Center.

**10. Facility**

- If your facility has been remodeled or updated please give an update. Do you have any plans to move your organization to another building in the near future?  
No plans to relocate or change the Center's location.
- If grant-funded activity areas have been significantly altered, be prepared to discuss.

**11. Health Equity** is a priority goal at the Minnesota Department of Health. How is your organization addressing this need?

Birthright volunteer staff strive to treat all clients equally with providing a standard protocol for all who walk through the door. This information is included when all volunteers are trained. Also all services are offered at no cost to clients.

**12. What are the new unaddressed needs in the communities you serve?**

Available and affordable housing is a big unmet need in the Rochester area. Rents for clean adequate apartments are very high.

- Do you have a well-developed and up-to-date list of community partners available?  
Birthright has a well-developed and thorough listing of community partners and are able to make warm referrals for all clients.
- Are you able to make warm referrals to any of these partners?

**13. Clients stories** (along with client data collection) are an important component of the work we do. Client stories fill in the gaps that data can't detail and humanize the efforts made by all grantees.

- **Have you submitted your PA funded client stories yet?**  
Not yet, but have promised to work on it.

**14. How can MDH be more supportive of your program?**

Continue the good training offered at grantee meetings and by webinar.

**15. Other?**

Birthright of Rochester is an all-volunteer non-profit organization with an enthusiastic volunteer leadership team that offers free services, referrals, and material assistance for young women in unplanned and crisis pregnancies in the Rochester area. This grantee offers free pregnancy tests, diapers, wipes and baby wash through their PA grant funding. They have continued to surpass their goal of projected clients per quarter during this past grant cycle. They offer a compassionate, well-respected and established service to an underserved population of women in the Rochester area.

Site Visit Date: May 26, 2016

Center: Birthright of Rochester

Grantee Staff: Diane O'Mara, Alicia Hunt-Welch

Positive Alternatives Grant Manager: Mary Ottman